AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of operating a packet network, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia; and

identifying a packet application in response to the indicia.

2.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an Al interface.

3.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A3 interface.

4.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A5 interface.

5.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A7 interface.

6.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A9 interface.

7.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A10 interface.

8.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A11 interface.

9.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a control plane packet application.

10.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a bearer packet application.

11.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a push-to-talk packet application.

12.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a Voice-over-IP packet application.

13.   (Original) A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a delay-sensitive packet application.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22.   (New) A method of operating a packet network, the method comprising:

processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia indicating a packet application to be transported across the interface;

identifying the packet application in response to the indicia;

distinguishing a first type of content in the packet application from a second type of content in the packet application; and

treating the first type of content differently from the second type of content.

23.   (New) The method of Claim 22, further comprising raising a priority level associated with the first type of content.

24.   (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first type of content is a signaling packet and the second type of content is a payload packet.

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25.   (New)   The method of Claim 22, wherein the first type of content is a control place

packet and wherein the second type of content is a bearer packet.